

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2584 SD1
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TUITION ASSISTANCE

PRESENTATION TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG
ADJUTANT GENERAL
April 3, 2012

Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and Committee Members:

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, State Adjutant General. I am testifying on Senate Bill 2584 SD1.

We strongly support Senate Bill 2584 SD1, since this measure broadens the scope of the tuition assistance to members of the Hawaii National Guard by including all commissioned officers rather than officers in the grade of 01 (Second Lieutenant) to 03 (Captain). Also, this measure includes all students working toward a degree on any campus of the University of Hawaii. However, this bill gives priority to members of the Hawaii National Guard that are working on toward an undergraduate degree.

Passage of this bill will provide the Hawaii National Guard with a very valuable incentive for recruiting and retaining our highly trained soldiers and airmen capable of performing their federal and State missions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Are there any questions?



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
April 3, 2012 at 5:00p.m.

by
Lui Hokoana
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
University of Hawai'i System

SB 2584 SD1 – RELATING TO TUITION ASSISTANCE

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of SB 2584 SD1 is to broaden the scope of the Hawai'i National Guard tuition assistance program to include graduate students and appropriate the necessary funds for that purpose.

The University appreciates the outstanding service that the Hawai'i National Guard has provided to our state and country. The University is proud to have more than 300 Hawai'i National Guard students enrolled at our campuses with a third of them receiving an exemption to non-resident tuition.

The University is supportive of providing our service members the opportunity to improve themselves and their community. Therefore, the University is in support of this bill to provide tuition assistance to undergraduate and graduate students attending the University of Hawai'i who are members of the Hawai'i National Guard.

Thank you for your support of the University and the opportunity to comment on this bill.



April 02, 2012

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2584 SD1
RELATING TO TUITION ASSISTANCE**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**HEARING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 3RD, AT 5:00 PM, IN CONFERENCE ROOM
308**

Aloha Chair Oshiro: The Oahu Veterans Council's delegates are honored to serve at the pleasure of our veterans and their families. Our Legislative Committee voted unanimously to support SB 2584 SD1.

We are extremely grateful for your interest in Broadening the scope of the tuition assistance to Hawaii National Guard members attending the University of Hawaii and appropriating funds for that purpose.

Since 9-11 Guard and Reserve personnel have shouldered a much greater portion of the national defense effort. Ensuring the benefits are distributed equally is an important way of saying thank you for your service to all who are ordered in harms way.

The Oahu Veterans Council respectfully urges your committee to consider passing Senate Bill 2584SD1 as written; mahalo, for allowing us to provide testify, regarding this extremely important issue.

Dennis Egge

Dennis Egge; Chairman, Legislative Committee



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1 April 2012

Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol
415 Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii

Ramon Maui Quizon
Senior Master Sergeant, Hawaii Air National Guard
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii 96853

Re: S.B. 2584 SD1: Hearing Date/Time/Location: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 308, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawaii

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the House Committee on Higher Education, I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2584, SD1 - RELATING TO TUITION ASSISTANCE. "Broadens the scope of the tuition assistance to Hawaii National Guard members attending the University of Hawaii and appropriates funds for that purpose."

I'm Senior Master Sergeant Ramon Maui Quizon, a member in good standing with the Hawaii Air National Guard, and current Vice President-Air, Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association, representing over 4,500 enlisted men and women of the Hawaii Army and Air National Guard.

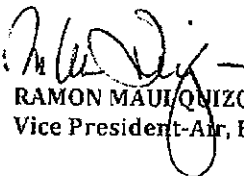
The Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association (HNGEA), a 501(c)(19) non-profit organization, was originally organized in July 1964. Its objective is to promote and advance the status, welfare and professionalism of the enlisted members of the Hawaii National Guard, to promote and maintain adequate national security, and to further the interests of the Hawaii National Guard. We strongly support S.B. 2584, SD1, relating to Tuition Assistance, which would broaden the scope of the tuition assistance to Hawaii National Guard members attending the University of Hawaii and appropriate funds for that purpose.

The Hawaii National Guard, Army and Air, continue to deploy thousands of soldiers and airmen to Iraq, Afghanistan, and other contingencies throughout the world.

As our guardsman (continue to) return from active duty deployment and transition back to their families and civilian life, I strongly believe we should (continue to) honor and take care of our men and women, ensuring the State of Hawaii is and will remain prepared and ready to deal with any emergency that could harm us.

I urge you to support passage S.B. 2584, SD1, relating to Tuition Assistance, which would broaden the scope of the tuition assistance to Hawaii National Guard members attending the University of Hawaii and appropriate funds for that purpose.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the House Committee on Finance; thank you for your time, commitment and dedication to the well-being of our State of Hawaii and the Guardsmen who defend it.



RAMON MAUI QUIZON, SMSgt, HIANG
Vice President-Air, Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association